

REMARKS

Claims 1-57 and 59 are now pending in the application. Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to applicant's representative during a telephone interview on January 22, 2008. As a result of that interview, the Examiner indicated that the claims as amended herein would define patentable subject matter over the Lupien reference cited in the Office Action, but that these amendments may also necessitate further consideration. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 7-17, 19-21, 25, 27-31, 34-44, 46-49, 53 and 56-57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,845,266 (Lupien). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is believed that the originally filed claims are patentably distinct over this reference for the reasons set forth in earlier response. Notwithstanding, independent Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define a feature of the present invention. We understand from the Examiner that the pending claims overcome the this pending rejection. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

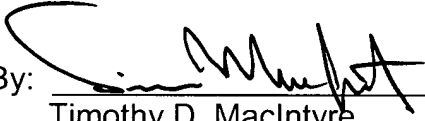
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 7, 2008

By: 
Timothy D. MacIntyre
Reg. No. 42,824

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

TDM/med